In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A set of instruments of progressively smaller sizes adapted for use in performing root canal therapy wherein each of the instruments comprises:

an elongated shaft including a proximal end and a distal end; and

a relatively short, enlarged, continuously tapered working length formed on the shaft adjacent to the distal end of said shaft, said working length being tapered from its upper end to its lower end, having a diameter at its upper end that is greater than the diameter of said shaft throughout the length of the remainder of said shaft and a length no longer than about 3 millimeters and including multiple cutting edges formed by multiple flutes thereon, the distal end of said working length of each instrument is a bi-conical shape for guiding the distal end and the short enlarged continuously tapered working length of the instrument in the direction of the root canal axis and wherein said cutting edges and flutes are parallel to the axis of each instrument, wherein said cutting edges permit clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation of said instruments while shaping a root canal and wherein at least one cutting edge on said working length runs from said bi-conical shape to the upper end of said working length.

2. (Previously amended) The set of instruments of claim 1 wherein said working length includes multiple sets of opposing cutting edges and said flutes are spaced apart thereby providing the opposing cutting edges whereby the instrument can be rotated clockwise or counter-clockwise while shaping a root canal.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The set of instruments of claim 1 wherein the larger instruments of the set of instruments have short enlarged working length tapers of 0.1 millimeter per millimeter of length and at least the smallest one of the set of instruments has a short enlarged working length taper of 0.05 millimeter per millimeter of length.

5. (Original) The set of instruments of claim 1 wherein each instrument has three cutting edges on the short enlarged continuously tapered working length thereof formed by three flutes thereon.

6. (Original) The set of instruments of claim 1 wherein each instrument has six cutting edges on the short enlarged continuously tapered working length thereof formed by three flutes thereon.

7. (Original) The set of instruments of claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the short enlarged continuously tapered working length of each instrument is triangular with concave sides, triangular, square or polygonal.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method of performing root canal therapy comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a set of instruments ~~of progressively smaller sizes~~, each instrument having an elongated shaft including a proximal end and a distal end and a relatively short, enlarged, continuously tapered working length formed on the shaft adjacent to the distal end of said shaft, said working length being tapered from its upper end to its lower end, having a diameter at its upper end that is greater than the diameter of said shaft throughout the length of the remainder of said shaft and a length no longer than about 3 millimeters and including multiple cutting edges formed by multiple flutes thereon, the distal end of said working length of each instrument is a bi-conical shape for guiding the distal end and the short enlarged continuously tapered working length of the instrument in the direction of the root canal axis and wherein said cutting edges and flutes are parallel to the axis of each instrument, wherein said cutting edges permit clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation of said instruments while shaping a root canal and wherein at least one cutting edge on said working length runs from said bi-conical shape to the upper end of said working length;

(b) inserting a first instrument ~~of the instruments~~ in the coronal portion of the root canal and rotating the instrument to enlarge the coronal portion into a continuous taper of a size corresponding to the continuously tapered working length of the first instrument;

(c) inserting a second instrument ~~of the instruments~~ in the root canal and rotating the instrument to thereby enlarge the root canal in a portion of the root canal beyond the coronal portion thereof into a continuous taper of a size corresponding to the continuously tapered working length of said second instrument, the continuously tapered working length of said second instrument having a smaller average diameter than the average diameter of the continuously tapered working length of said first instrument; and

(d) inserting a third instrument ~~of the instruments~~ in the root canal and rotating the instrument to thereby enlarge the root canal in a portion of the root canal closer to the foramina thereof into a continuous taper of a size corresponding to the continuously tapered working length of said third instrument, the continuously tapered working length of said third instrument having a smaller average diameter than the average diameter of the continuously tapered working length of said second instrument.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said working length includes multiple sets of opposing cutting edges and said flutes are spaced apart thereby providing the opposing cutting edges whereby the instrument can be rotated clockwise or counter-clockwise while shaping a root canal.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein each instrument has three cutting edges on the short enlarged continuously tapered working length thereof formed by three flutes thereon.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein each instrument has six cutting edges on the short enlarged continuously tapered working length thereof formed by three flutes thereon.